



## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**Fort Benning, GA**

**(706) 545-3512 / 545-2237**

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**FORT BENNING** – Fort Benning will conduct prescribed burning today in the post's west quadrant.

The wind today is predicted to be from the west and should keep smoke on the Installation and away from neighboring communities.

Prescribed burning enhances the post's ability to manage the ecosystem by creating areas attractive to the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW), while reducing the amount of pine needles and underbrush that could fuel a wildfire and improving areas where soldiers train. Acreage is usually burned on a three-year rotation, with a combined 1200 acres expected to be burned over the next three years in the Sand Hill area.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service has designated the post as a recovery population site for the RCW. Additional RCW family groups, or clusters, must be attracted and established to meet the recovery population goal.

Prescribed burning fires are usually ignited between 11:30 and 3 p.m., depending on the humidity, fuel moisture and dew or frost, and weather conditions to include transport winds, wind directions, and the Drought Index.

People suffering from respiratory ailments should remain indoors if they live in the vicinity of a controlled burning site. Motorists in controlled burning areas risk reduced visibility.

For more information, call the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-3512 or (706) 545-2237. After duty hours and on weekends, call (706) 545-2218.

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